

FEES & CHARGES 2019/20

**Report by the Chief Financial Officer
Scottish Borders Council**

16 May 2019

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an updated schedule of proposed 2019/20 fees and charges, as detailed in Appendix 1. As part of the budget setting process for 2019/20, the fees and changes were agreed by Council on 20 December 2018. Since this date a couple of changes have been made, following confirmation of pricing from other bodies.

1.2 For 2019/20 the fees and charges are based on approved 2018/19 charges plus an inflationary increase of at least 3%, unless there is a business reason not to do so, such as charges being set nationally or if the increase would have a negative effect on usage.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Scottish Borders Council approves the fees and charges schedule updates, detailed in Appendix 1

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council's Fees and Charges policy was approved in November 2012. The proposed Fees and Charges schedule attached is based on this policy. The policy ensures a consistent approach across all departments and requires the Council to review fees and charges on an annual basis. In setting fees and charges, the aspiration is that, as far as possible, the charges levied by Arms-Length Organisations, such as SB Cares, are consistent with the Council's approved policy on fees and charges.

4 UPDATED FEES AND CHARGES

4.1 Appendix 1 shows the amendments to the detailed fees and charges proposed for 2019/20 along with the previous three years' charges and the percentage increase on last year's charge for comparative purposes.

4.2 The fees and charges schedule was presented to Council in December 2018, to allow charging to be effectively put in place from 1 April 2019. This allowed fees and charges to be applied for the financial year 2019/20 and therefore such charges could provide the maximum benefit in terms of the Council's revenue budget 2019/20.

4.3 Since the approval of the Fees and Charges in December 2018:

- i) The Council has received the COSLA rates for the National Care Home Contract for 2019/20 for Nursing and Residential care, and
- ii) The Council remains in transitional arrangements for some clients; moving to Self-Directed Support, and clients may continue to be charged a contribution towards their care during this period. Therefore appropriate fees and charges need to be approved.
- iii) The road opening and road occupation permits, have been confirmed as pricing set by the Roads Authorities & Utilities Committee (Scotland) (RAUC(S))
- iv) The addition of the incoming materials tipping charge at the Langlee Recycling Centre to the fees and charges schedule
- v) Synthetic pitch lets, the previous fees and charges schedule had included the commercial rate, this has been amended to the adult hire rate

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

It is estimated that the fees and charges set out within the original agreed paper in December 2018, would generate additional income of over £150k, which is already assumed within the Financial Plan for 2019/20. The Fees and Charges for Health and Social Care, as detailed

in Appendix 1, will add to this income and will be monitored as part of the monthly monitoring process during 2019/20.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a risk that increases in Fees and Charges may be resisted by service users/clients, which may impact upon income levels and usage of facilities and services. Wherever possible this risk has been offset by appropriate benchmarking to ensure charges are in line with those levied by alternative providers and comparable Local Authorities.

5.3 Equalities

An equality impact assessment will be undertaken.

5.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant effects on the economy, community or environment.

5.5 Carbon Management

No effect on carbon emissions is anticipated.

5.6 Rural Proofing

It is anticipated there will be no disproportionate impact on the rural area.

5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation are required.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1** Corporate Management Team has been consulted regarding the contents of this report. The Chief Legal Officer and the Chief Officer Audit and Risk have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into this report.

Approved by

David Robertson
Chief Financial Officer

Signature

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Background Papers:
Previous Minute Reference:

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